

#43

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 94983  
LM/BP  
Spanish

C

EMBASSY OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

D.E.76

Washington, D.C., January 18, 1980

Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to transmit a message from His Excellency the President of the Argentine Republic to His Excellency the President of the United States of America.

Quote:

Mr. President:

I received your letter of January 11, 1980, in which you inform me of your profound and genuine concern about the events in Southwest Asia and their negative impact on world peace.

After reading and considering the important concepts in your letter with the care required by the circumstances, I feel that it is essential to state some reasons that, in keeping with your concerns, determine Argentina's position with respect to the serious problem that has arisen.

In the not too distant past we have experienced the ideological and physical aggression of terrorism, which, as everyone knows, is a clear manifestation of the totalitarian advance against Western civilization and

His Excellency  
Cyrus Vance,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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its inherent values.

The entire nation responded to this attack with unceasing effort, and did so in the midst of widespread international incomprehension and even at the cost of defamation and slander.

Therefore, we thoroughly understand the dangers and the seriousness of the current international situation. In addition to our strong convictions, Mr. President, we bear the burden of our own painful experience.

Now, without the slightest hesitation, we have condemned the invasion of Afghanistan and added our vote to the United Nations resolution demanding the withdrawal of occupying troops. Naturally, in the future we shall join in all resolutions adopted by international organizations to ensure self-determination of all peoples.

The foregoing, as we said in our declaration of January 10, 1980, does not commit us to support measures adopted unilaterally and without consultation.

We fervently believe in the West and in its vitally important attributes, and we are ready to defend them in accordance with our traditions, which you recalled in so timely a way, and with our people's love of freedom.

We therefore appreciate the full scope and possibilities of the union of efforts that you are wisely seeking, and we wish to serve, as a sovereign state, the cause of peace, respect, and justice among nations.

Accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla  
President of Argentina

Unquote.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]  
Jorge A. Aja Espil  
Ambassador

#4F  
Unofficial Translation

8001247

Washington, D.C., January 18, 1980

Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to convey to Your Excellency, the transcription of a message received from His Excellency the President of the Argentine Republic to His Excellency the President of the United States of America:

"Dear Mr. President:

I have received your letter of January 11, in which you inform me of your great concern regarding the events in Southwest Asia and their negative influence on world peace.

After carefully reading and pondering on the profound concepts of your communication with the rigor that the circumstances call for, I consider it essential to express some considerations which, in agreement with, your concerns, define the position of Argentina regarding the grave problem that has arisen.

We have known, in recent years, the impact of ideological and physical aggression of terrorism which, as no one ignores, constitutes a clear manifestation of the totalitarian advance on occidental civilization and its immanent values.

Our national community had to respond, through a constant struggle to that attack. This struggle was carried out in the midst of a general lack of international understanding and, even at the price of discredit and slander.

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The Honorable  
Cyrus Vance  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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That is why, we are fully aware of the dangers and the seriousness of the present international situation. In addition to our deep convictions, Mr. President, we carry the burden of a painful experience.

Hence, without hesitating we have condemned the invasion of afghan territory and added our vote to the resolution of the United Nations calling for the withdrawal of all occupying troops. And, of course, we will back up all future resolutions adopted by International Organizations, aiming to ensure the free self-determination of nations.

Which does not exclude, as we expressed in our declaration of January 10, the decision of not supporting measures taken unilaterally and without consultation.

We fervently believe in the West and its transcendental values which we are ready to defend, in agreement with the traditions of our country, so timely brought to mind by you, and our peoples love for freedom.

That is why, we value in its full extent and in all its possibilities, the joining of efforts that you rightly call for, with the desire to serve, from our sovereign position, the cause of peace, respect and justice among nations.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Teniente General Jorge Rafael Videla  
President of the Argentine Republic

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jorge A. Aja Espil  
Ambassador



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Por eso, conocemos a fondo los peligros y la gravedad de la actual coyuntura internacional. Nos asiste, señor Presidente, además de profundas convicciones, el peso de una dolorosa experiencia propia.

De ahí que ahora, sin la menor vacilación, hemos elevado nuestra condena frente a la invasión del territorio afgano y sumado nuestro voto a la Resolución de las Naciones Unidas requiriendo el retiro de las tropas ocupantes. Y, por supuesto, acompañaremos en el futuro todas las resoluciones que se adopten en el seno de los Organismos Internacionales, a fin de asegurar la libre autodeterminación de los pueblos.

Todo lo cual no excluye, como lo expresáramos en nuestra declaración del 10 de enero pasado, la decisión de no secundar medidas adoptadas en forma unilateral y sin consulta.


Creemos fervorosamente en Occidente y en sus atributos trascendentes que estamos prontos a defender, acordes con las tradiciones del país tan oportunamente recordadas por usted y el amor a la libertad de nuestro pueblo.

Por eso, valorizamos en todo su alcance y posibilidades, la unión de los esfuerzos que usted acertadamente reclama, en la inteligencia de servir, desde los márgenes de nuestra soberanía, a la causa de la paz, el respeto y la justicia entre las naciones.

Reciba usted las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración".

Teniente General Jorge Rafael Videla  
Presidente de la Nación Argentina

Saludo a Vuestra Excelencia con mi consideración más alta y distinguida.

  
Jorge A. Aja Espil  
Embajador

MEMORANDUM

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#4A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 6, 1980

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI *ZB.*  
SUBJECT: Letter from President Videla (U)

Attached at Tab A is the translation of a letter from Argentine President Videla dated January 18, responding to your January 11 letter on Afghanistan. President Videla joins in condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan, but complains of "measures adopted unilaterally and without consultation." Because a Presidential Emissary has since visited Argentina, I believe that no reply is necessary. (C)

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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Review on 2/5/86

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